

HOUSE RESOLUTION 210

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Friendship Christian School Commanders on winning the 2007 TSSAA Class A State Baseball Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Friendship Christian School Commanders achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2007 season, winning the TSSAA Class A State Baseball Championship to claim their first state championship in any sport and the first state baseball title for a Wilson County high school team; and

WHEREAS, only the second time a team from Wilson County has ever played in a state baseball championship game since runner-up Mt. Juliet High School in 1983, Friendship Christian played in its first state championship game in any sport in 2005, when the baseball team lost to University School of Jackson who later forfeited their title having used two ineligible players with the state title being vacated due to association rule; and

WHEREAS, defeating Jackson Christian 13-3 in the championship game, Friendship Christian avenged their loss to the same school just six months prior in the Class 1A football title game held just steps from the Reese Smith Field baseball diamond at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, the championship game was actually stopped an inning early due to the ten-run rule, which led Commander pitcher Cody Searcey to say that "everything was going our way" after pitching five innings to gain the victory; and

WHEREAS, state championships are achieved only through hard work, dedication, and the ability to work together as a team and excel together with a cooperative spirit; the Friendship

Christian Commanders exhibited each of these rare qualities during their 2007 championship season; and

WHEREAS, cultivating the talent of each of his players, Head Coach John McNeal enjoyed the help of Assistant Coaches Jody Atwood and Duane Lowe in guiding this exemplary team as they matured into state champions; and

WHEREAS, in coaching the Commanders to their first state baseball championship, Coach McNeal claimed his first state championship after having several near misses both as a Goodpasture Christian School player and a Friendship Christian coach; and

WHEREAS, Coach John McNeal first came to Friendship in 1986 as head football coach and served three years, during which he also led the softball program to prominence, before returning to his alma mater, Goodpasture, as a football assistant and baseball coach, then finally returning to Friendship Christian in 1992 as head football and baseball coach; and

WHEREAS, the baseball players of Friendship Christian School epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success on the diamond while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; they inspired the school's student body and united the entire community during their triumphal run through the 2007 season; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding players who comprise the Friendship Christian Commanders are Bryant Alsup, Payton Alsup, Brent Boyd, Jesse Coe, Brian Cravens, Jordan Dennis, Eddie Doss Eatherly, Taylor Ferraro, Jeremy Hunley, Lee Maasen, John Marham, Jon Miller, Mitch Miller, Wade Mitchell, Steven Nolan, Stephen Pryor, Cody Searcey, and G.L. Waynick; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship baseball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Friendship Christian School Commanders upon winning the 2007 TSSAA Class A State Baseball Championship and for serving as examples of the high quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Head Coach John McNeal and the Friendship Christian School Commanders on their remarkable 2007 season and State Championship Tournament victory. These outstanding young men are worthy ambassadors of the Volunteer State, and we wish them and their coaches much continued success in their future endeavors, both on and off the baseball diamond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.